The GARZETTE

Nov, 2004 Volume 13, Issue 11



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From the President's Desk

The Berkeley Lake Elementary School PTA Science Night was a great success. We had a great time and looking forward to next year. Also, JOTA (Jamboree On The Air) was a blast, the scouts got together for radio demos. It was on **October 16-17**. November is the Alfred hamfest, hope to see you there. December is the Christmas Party.

Here are some of the questions I asked last month.

Is the Gars repeater system giving you what you want?

Is GARS giving you what you want as a club?

Do you monitor the gars email list?

Do you share your experiences with the club members?

Do you come to GARS functions?

Do you help make the club an enjoyable place to come and make new friends?

Do you make contact with everyone on the repeater when your out and about?

Get involved and share the load. One of our members asked me the other day, "What happened to our Elmer program?" It's still there, we have Elmers waiting for people to call them for help. They are listed in the GARZETTE. Well, people may not ask for help right up front. Everyone was a new guy or gal when they started out. The club needs to be more aggressive on taking care of the new guy or gal. We need to come up with a program that can make sure our new people can access someone when they have questions, whether it's on equipment or antennas or operational questions. What do you suggest as a way to help?

See you on the air.

73 till next time,

David, KA4KKF

November 9th Meeting:

Please Note, the *meeting location* will be at the Old City Hall.

18 S. Clayton Street between the police station and Lawrenceville auto parts store.

The GARZETTE

The GARZETTE is the official monthly organ of the Gwinnett Amateur Radio Society serving its members and other persons interested in the advancement of the amateur radio art.

Original articles, art, and photos are invited and encouraged. Previously copyrighted submissions cannot be accepted for reprinting unless permission from the appropriate publisher is provided in writing along with the information being submitted. If reprints are from publications allowing their unrestricted use, please include a copy of the printed permission contained in the publication.

If possible, bring your articles to the monthly meeting in Microsoft Word format or by email to wa4zxv@arrl.net. Artwork can be accepted in most any graphics format and can be submitted via email to the same address. Alternate means of submittal can be arranged when necessary.

In keeping with the amateur radio spirit, permission is hereby granted for the reproduction of *The GARZETTE* articles by other amateur radio club newsletters provided that proper credit is given to the individual author and to *The GARZETTE*.

The GARZETTE is published each month with the assistance of Hal Manning, who prints the news letter. Rick Patchin, KD4RFK does the final production work on The GARZETTE by folding & labeling. John A. Davis, WB4QDX, stamps and gets the end product to the Post Office each month. Paul McInnish, K4BET who manages email delivery. Many thanks to each of them and all article contributors.

Deadline for submissions is the 20th of each month for inclusion in the following month's issue.

For any additional information contact:

Newsletter Editor:

Norm Schklar, WA4ZXV (770-840-9664) wa4zxv@schklar.com

All correspondence relating to articles posted in *The GARZETTE* or for information concerning advertising rates should be directed to the following address:

Gwinnett Amateur Radio Society P.O. Box 88 Lilburn, GA 30048 Attn: Newsletter Editor

HARPO?

HARPO-1 Flight Overview

By Darren Pierce AG4BF

On Saturday October 9, 2004 the first flight of HARPO (**High Altitude Research Platform and Observatory**) was launched from Grayson, Georgia at 10:22 am. The balloon path initially took it on a northwestern path towards Lawrenceville. After climbing for several thousand feet HARPO-1 started a eastern path towards Athens. The path of the balloon followed Highway 316 until reaching the tropopuase around 55,000 feet.

The balloon started a vertical climb with very little forward



movement until reaching the altitude of 104,222 feet. At this point the balloon was just north of Bogart, Georgia. At 12:06 p.m. the balloon reached its maximum altitude and burst, it then began its decent back to earth. Due to the parachute malfunctioning, the payload reached the ground in 16

minutes.

The landing site was approximately 4 miles northwest of Athens off of Lavender road and Tallahassee road. The pay-

load was recovered at 1:06 p.m. HARPO-1 was a success even though there were equipment malfunctions, the payload was recovered in working order and is already slated to be used onboard HARPO-2 sometime in late November or early December. It is currently ranked 16th highest recorded altitude ever reported by GPS and 6th highest this year. There are pictures of HARPO-1 on my web site http://www.geocities.com/ dpierce765



ARES Moments



November

Winter is approaching. Now is the time to make sure you are prepared to handle winter emergency communications

(emcomm). Is your own house ready? Have you pruned dead and weakened trees and limbs that could fall on your home or power lines? Have you checked your batteries? Run your station on battery power to see it they still hold a charge. Do you have an emergency dipole ready when that tribander crashes down from too much ice?

Ice is one of the biggest threats for our area of the country. Do you remember the ice, snow, and extreme cold (single digit temperatures for a week!) from 1982? This could happen again. Or worse. In '82, large areas of metro Atlanta were without power. Burst water pipes were epidemic. Abandoned cars littered the expressways. Are you ready with the equipment and training needed should the Red Cross open a couple of shelters in our county to house stranded motorists?

Now might be the time to begin your involvement in emcomm. Check into the ARES net (Monday 21:00 147.075), surf over to the web page (http://

www.gwinnettares.org/), or attend an ARES meeting (4th Tuesday 19:30).

November 11th Program will be on GPS, APRS and High Altitude Ballooning

Darren Pierce (AG4BF) and Eddie Foust (WD4JEM) will present a program on Darren's recent Balloon Launch and Chase from last month. Darren and crew successfully launched a helium balloon equipped with APRS and a Beacon Transmitter payload from Grayson

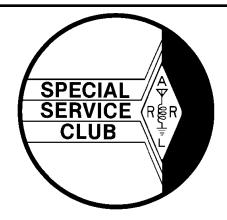
which flew to over 100,000 feet before landing near Athens. All who participated had a great amateur radio activity with APRS tracking and balloon recovery.



GARS Apparel

Several items of clothing that feature our Club logo and/or your call sign are available to Club members. These items include polo shirts, sweat shirts, caps, jackets and other articles. Call sign badges can also be ordered. See Dan Keohan, KF4YSU, at the next Club meeting for a listing of items and their associated costs.

QST ***** Contact a Club officer if you have a suggestion for an upcoming Club meeting speaker or topic. ****



October Meeting Minutes

Minutes for 12-Oct-2004

David KA4KKF started the meeting at 19:35

Everyone introduced themselves name and call sign.

We had one person working on his license and two visitors. No minutes forgot to get someone to take the minutes. Ken was out due to a car accident.

Dan KF4YSU – Treasurers report was handed. We paid for our insurance on our equipment \$390.00.

We also had some interest on the certificate of deposit.

Any questions? Motion to accept treasurers report by Mike K4HBI Seconded by Bill WB4WTN and approved by voice vote.

Earl had two announcements:

JOTA – Third Sat. in October Scouts at Rhodes Jordan Park. Three rigs 10:00am till 4pm Boy scouts, Cub scouts and girl scouts. Stop by the park or listen on two meters we give them an opportunity to get on the air.

Be kind to them. Secondly I have an opportunity for anybody that wants it, I had the opportunity to inspect a home of a ham that is moving into the country. He has a 50 foot 10,20 40 meter yagi free to anybody that wants to get it. It has to be taken down. If interested contact Earl at 770-339-7863. It will take a couple of people to take it down it's in Snellville. The house has been sold so it has to come down.

David – Anybody else have anything.

Bill – Steve had a program for APRES. There was a question on registering Uiview you can no longer register it on the web site. The father of Uiview has become a SK. So you can on longer register on his web site. A group got together with the widow they are now taking registrations on your promise of a donation to the local cancer society. There is a e-mail link on the Yahoo Uiview group web site. Send them an e-mail and they will register your copy.

David - You all had fun Saturday didn't you?

Daren AF4BG launched a balloon with two APRES and a CW transmitter on it. The Balloon got to 104,000 feet and landed somewhere over in Athens.

David – Anybody else have anything? Norm - Gazette will probably go out tomorrow. Susan – The big project is that something we canbring up now? Yes.

GARS as a club was kind enough to donate a library of books for Richards Middle School a couple of years ago because we where one of the pilot schools for the big project. Well unfortunately the big pilot can no longer continue at Richards because of multiple reasons. But to make a long story short I did a little of wheeling and dealing.

and have managed to transfer all the equipment from the ARRL which was at Richards over to another school in Cobb County. A high school which is a magna school just for math and science. The teachers on board and schools on board. It an exciting adventure over there because I think its going to be a better fit and a better output result whatever as far as amateur radio for that school. My question for the club I have the books that were donated by GARS to the Richards Middle School and I would like to transfer them to the new school in Cobb County. But I didn't want to do that till I got the okay from the club because you were the guys were the ones that paid for them.

David we need a motion. Ray made the motion to transfer the books. Stan seconded.

Question from the floor will we get credit?

Susan - I will put in the newsletter. It is Wheeler High School. A club member was familiar with the school. It is a great atmosphere. Dan has a question did we insure it? Looking for the equipment on the inventory it came from the ARRL and went directly to the school. It didn't have a GARS logo. But we may have insured it. It's an 847 earth station.

David – The only thing we did was donate the books. If it is on our list to insure take it off the books. All those in favor say I. The motion passed by voice vote.

David – Thursday week of the 21st we have an Elementary school at Berkley Lake. We are going to be doing a demo there from 7:00 or 7:30 till eight or nine. David sent out some e-mails looking for help. Same thing we did the last year.

David – Carl are we on schedule for the Christmas party. Carl we will have it on December 3, if I have to cook it myself.

Continued on page 4...

Tech Fest 2005

By: Ray Back

The Gwinnett Amateur Radio Society (GARS) will be holding its 7th annual Tech Fest on Saturday January 22, 2005 at St Marguerite D'Youville in Lawrenceville. The event will run from 11 AM until 3 PM and will feature displays showing the different areas of amateur radio. Also, they will host the annual GARS Chili Cook-off to see who can hold the title as the Chili King (or Queen) of Gwinnett County. For those with non-cast iron stomachs, we will be serving burgers, dogs, and more. Please bring a side dish or dessert

This year we will have a raffle with all profits from it going to the GARS Scholarship fund.

If you would like to display something or enter the Chili Cook-off, please contact Ray Back KI4GRJ, Tech Fest chairman at (678) 380-1728 or by email at ki4gri@arrl.net.

Minutes continued...

David - Ray Tech fest Jan 22nd

Ray – If you guys don't know I got volunteered for tech fest. This year I gave in gratiously. I will try to get HRO to see if they will donate something and do a raffle and all proceeds from the money will go to the scholarship fund. Comment from a club member we will need to get approval of the Catholic Church if we are going to have it over there. David – you will have to check into that, Ray - I will call.

David – Sign up sheets for the Chili cook off.

Ray is passing around sign up sheets. Sign up we would love to have you sign up.

David – some time before you leave the meeting tonight if you know a ham of the year candidate write their name and call sign and leave it on the table here. We will collect those. If you're not familiar with anyone ask some one.

David – Gordon has an announcement Gordon KF4OKA - Ham Fest tickets six bucks children under 16 free. See Gordon.

David - Anything else?

Okay take a quick 10 minute break our activity tonight is a report from the Venture Crew...

GARS Participated in Berkeley Lake Elementary School Science Night

GARS again participated in the schools Science Night. GARS members brought in equipment and demonstrated several modes of Amateur Radio Communications.

EchoLink was shown by John (wb4qdx), ATV was presented by Stan (wa4dyd). Several DVD's and handouts by ARRL Youth Editor, Andrea (kg4ium) with help from Scott (kf4pwi). Ray and Steve (ki4grj/wb2ogy) explained Crew 73 and Scouting while handing out info. We had a HF rig on 40 meters with Becah (ki4fuh), David (ka4kkf), Bill (wb4wtn) and Carl (wb9jsw).

Everyone had a great time talking to the kids and parents. We saw an lot of people and answered a bunch of questions. It was time well spent. The TV always gets the most attention from the kids. They like to see themselves on the screen. Morse Code

al-



ways attracts the young, and some old. They like to play with the code key and make noise. Every station had some traffic. I hope we can provide the excitement for them next year. Come join the fun. The school is K through fifth grade.

Thanks everyone that helped make this project a success.

Many GARS Members Attended the October Gwinnett ARES Meeting

Deploying the Strategic National Stockpile (SNS)

At the October meeting of Gwinnett ARES, members learned more about the activities that might be involved in deploying the Strategic National Stockpile (SNS) of pharmaceuti-



cals to the threecounty area that comprises the East Metro Health District.

Allison Cain, Emergency Preparedness

Specialist with the East Metro Health District, presented a program about the role of public health in terrorism events and more specific information about the SNS.

A draft communications plan to support the Health District had been prepared, working with Newton

and Rockdale Counties, and was exercised during the annual Simulated Emergency Test (SET)

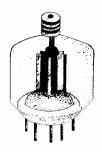


conducted by Gwinnett ARES with participation from both Newton and Rockdale Counties. The SET demonstrated to representatives of the Health District what ARES could provide in the way of emergency communications and also pointed out some areas in need of improvement. An after-action report was prepared and presented to all served agencies which included the East Metro Health District, Gwinnett County Emergency Management Agency, Emory Eastside Medical Center and Gwinnett Health System (Gwinnett Medical Center and Joan Glancy Hospital).

If you would like to be part of this important public service aspect of Amateur Radio, contact Stan Edwards, WA4DYD, Emergency Coordinator of Gwinnett Co. ARES. *Cont.*.

From previous column

Come and join us for our November ARES meeting when our own Andrea Hartlage, KG4IUM, will be presented the Jack Hobbs Amateur Radio Award, sponsored by the Emergency Managers' Association of Georgia.



From the Editor...

It takes a lot of effort on the part of several members to keep GARS alive and growing. Many of us come and go. We're interested for a while and then something else grabs our interest and we're off to the next big adventure. Those that stay around, participate, take leadership rolls, or volunteer for the not so fun jobs, deserve a lot of credit. It's not just the members that stand up in front of meetings, it's also the folks that attend GARS functions, help promote amateur radio in their own community and get on the air.

GARS can't be everything to everyone, but we have such a variety of events during the year, that it seems everyone could find something of interest.

Sometimes it's tough to really get involved. Those that do participate on a regular basis "ASSUME" that everyone else knows the details and sometimes that's not the case. To get involved, you have to make the effort, expect to have your feelings ignored occasionally, and keep at it. You'll be surprised how quick you'll be part of the "in the know" crowd.

We try to keep current information on the web site, share information at meetings and send info to the email reflector. If you've got an idea about how we can better communicate, just let us know. You can start the process by calling, or sending me a note. wa4zxv@schklar.com or phone 770-840-9664. I'll be glad to help. And you can bet there's a bunch of other folks in GARS that willing to take suggestions and make changes as necessary.

Thanks for reading! Norm, WA4ZXV

Metro Atlanta Club Meetings

<u>First Tuesday</u> Kennehoochee ARC

First United Methodist Church in Marietta Meeting begins at 7:30 PM Talk In 146.880(-)

<u>Second Monday</u> Georgia Tech ARC

Room W218
Van Leer Electrical Engineering
Bldg.
Georgia Tech Campus
Meeting at 7:00 PM

First Thursday Atlanta Radio Club

Georgia Red Cross HQ 1955 Monroe Dr., Atlanta Meeting is at 7:30 PM Talk In -146.820(-)

N.E. Georgia ARC

Commerce Public Library Meeting is at 6:30 PM Talk In - 147.225(+) PL 123.0

North Fulton Amateur Radio League

Southern Skillet 1037 Alpharetta St., Roswell Dinner at 6:30 PM, meeting at 7:30 PM

Talk In - 145.47(-)

<u>Second Thursday</u> Alford Memorial Radio Club

Annistown Road Baptist Church Intersection of Annistown Rd & Spain Rd Stone Mountian Dinner at 6:00 PM Meeting at 7:30 PM Talk In - 146.760(-)

First Saturday North GA QRP Club

Wieuca Baptist Church on Peachtree Rd/Wieuca, 10 AM

Metro Atlanta VE Exam Schedule

GARS publishes Metro Atlanta area VE exam schedules as a service and is not responsible for errors or changes. Call and confirm schedules before going. All sessions are walk-in. Take copies of current license and certificate of completed elements with you to all sessions. Find additional sessions online at www.arrl-ga.org

(770) 973-2566

First Saturday, Even Months

9:00AM EOC Building Butch Nitz, AF4FS (770) 968-8780

Second Tuesday

7:00PM Walton EMC 3645 Lenora Church Rd, Snellville Wayne Taylor, WD4CCA (770)498-7759

Second Saturday, Odd Months

ARRL VEC 8:30 AM Stone Mountain Methodist Church 5312 West Mountain St. Stone Mountain Bob Varone, W4ETN (770)978-3179

Third Saturday CA VEC

9:00AM Marietta First United Methodist Church Room 305, 56 Whitlock Ave Marietta David Still, WB4RRD

Fourth Tuesday

ARRL VEC 7:00 PM United Way Service Center 6279 Fairburn Road, Douglasville

Third Sunday

W5YI VEC
3:00 – 5:00 PM
St. John Neumann Church
801 Tom Smith Road Lilburn
Headphones Provided! Howie Gould,
W9HG (770)921-8362

Fourth Sunday

2:30 PM Georgia Tech Student Center Room 301 David Ziskind, KE4QLH (404) 966-6864

GARS Communication System

6 Meter Repeater

53.110 (-1 MHz) 82.5 PL Tone

2 Meter Repeater

147.075(+) MHz 82.5 PL Tone

70 Cm Repeater

444.525(+) MHz 82.5 PL Tone

APRS

144.390 -- 1200 Baud W4GR/Relay Main Repeater Site
Oak Street, Lawrenceville
Backup Repeater Site
Lanier Mountain, Snellville
Remote Receive Sites

Bogan Road, Buford Goshen Springs Road, Norcross Lanier Mountain, Snellville



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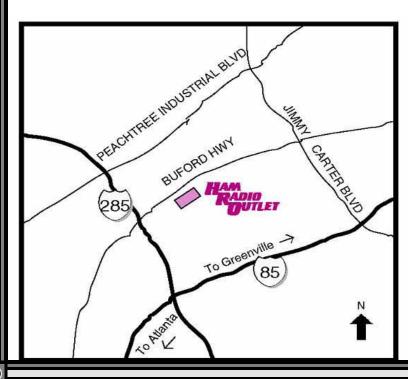
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David KF4VDH

Dale W4GCL

Bill KF8AZ

Josh W4JDH



Alinco I c o m Japan Radio Corp Kenwood Premier/ADI Yaesu Alpha Delta Arrow Butternut Create Cushcraft D i a m o n d Force 12 Hustler Hy-Gain (Telex) KĽM Larsen **M** 2 Premier Valor Van Gorden

From the ARRL Web Site... The K7RA Solar Update

SEATTLE, WA, Nov 5, 2004--The quiet geomagnetic conditions and big sunspots of last week couldn't last forever, and unfortunately there was some geomagnetic upset on Saturday, October 30, the first day of the CQ World Wide DX Phone weekend. Conditions weren't terrible, although higher latitude and polar paths were more difficult.

A huge sunspot (693) emerged the day before the contest, October 29, and it moved into position for greatest effect on earth around November 2-3. Another sunspot (696) is moving into prime earth-facing position over the next day or two. A coronal mass ejection from sunspot 696 blasted into space on November 4, and the energy from that event is expected to hit us late November 5 or on November 6. Predicted planetary A index for November 5-8 is 15, 30, 25 and 15. Predicted solar flux for those same days is around 140. This is a little higher than it has been over the past week. This week average daily sunspot numbers dropped a little less than two points to 139. Average daily solar flux rose four points to 134.6.

This weekend is the ARRL Sweepstakes CW contest. With active geomagnetic conditions predicted for Saturday, it could be a bit rough. High latitude and polar paths are affected most. Since this isn't a DX contest, propagation over the poles isn't much concern, but working VE8 and KL7 multipliers could be a bit rough. We hope it is more moderate than the current prediction, but the prediction is for higher A and K indices than last weekend.

Now that October has passed, we can calculate and compare monthly averages of daily sunspot numbers and solar flux, perhaps to see some trends. Although both measures were up slightly in October, this solar continues to decline.

The monthly average of daily sunspot numbers, October 2003 through October 2004 were 118.9, 103, 75.7, 62.3, 75.6, 81, 59.3, 77.3, 77, 87.8, 69.6, 50 and 77.9.

The monthly averages of daily solar flux for the same period were 155.5, 140.8, 116.1, 114.1, 107, 112.1, 101.2, 99.8, 97.4, 119.8, 110, 103 and 106.

For more information concerning propagation and an explanation of the numbers used in this bulletin see the ARRL Technical Information Service <u>propagation</u> page.

Amateur solar observer Tad Cook, K7RA, Seattle, Washington, provides this weekly report on solar conditions and propagation. This report also is available via W1AW every Friday and an abbreviated version also appears in The ARRL Letter. Readers may contact the author via e-mail.

Is the Magic in the Fingerpieces?

Stewart Personick (AB2EZ)

Having put together a small collection of paddles... I have been doing some side-by-side comparisons.

I now have three excellent magnetic iambic paddles: a March R3a, an Alberto Frattini, and a Begali Signature Edition.

I have them set up for nearly the same spacing and restoring force. With respect to those factors, they feel the same.

However, when I use them side-by-side at 25 WPM... hooked up in parallel to the same Idiom Press K-3 keyer... and when I switch back and forth... I find that my code is always nearly perfect with the Begali, and not as nearly perfect with either of the other two. I.e., occasional, unintended, extra "dits" and "dahs".

So... what can the difference be? My conjecture:

The Begali paddle uses stiff, metal finger pieces. Because they are made of metal, they have two characteristics that my other two fine paddles don't have. (The Alberto Frattini paddle has beautifully crafted plastic finger pieces, and the March paddle has beautiful, comfortable, carved wooden finger pieces).

- 1. The Begali finger pieces are good conductors of heat... and they are noticibly cool to the touch. Therefore, they provide additional tactile feedback to help you know when your fingers are just touching the finger pieces.
- 2. The Begali paddles are excellent conductors of vibration (sound waves), and this provides excellent tactile feedback regarding the instant the the contacts touch.

Best regards Stu AB2EZ



Gwinnett Amateur Radio Society P.O. Box 88 Lilburn, GA 30048

GARS USE UNLY
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Executive Committee Meeting

All interested individuals are invited and encouraged to attend the monthly Executive Committee Meeting. Presently, these gatherings occur one hour in advance of the regular Club Meeting. The location is in a classroom immediately near the Club meeting space.

Several years ago these Ex. Comm. meetings were instituted for the purpose of saving more time in our Club meetings for "radio talk" verses the business of the Club. To that end, they have been successful. However, some members enjoy ALL aspects of the Club, and as such, are encouraged to come, participate, share insights and opinions! We will all be benefited by the sharing of ideas & experience.

For the latest Club news, visit the GARS Website at:

www.gars.org

Club Recurring Calen-

• GARS Monthly club meeting is the 2nd Tuesday of the month at 7:30 PM. Check the Web Site for Location.

- Every Monday at 8 PM local time: GARS Want, Swap, Sell, and Information Net on the GARS 2 meter repeater
- Every Wednesday at 9 PM local time: GARS 6 meter net on the GARS 6 meter repeater
- Every Saturday at 8AM local time: GARS Weekly Family Breakfast, Golden Corral Restaurant, Riverside Drive, Lawrenceville
- 15th of each month: Deadline for submittal of articles for the following month's GARZETTE

GARS Elmers

Many of us Hams got interested in the hobby (service) as a result of some influence an experienced Ham had on us. The GARS organization is blessed with a lot of talented members that are willing to share their knowledge. The following list is made up of those individuals willing to serve as Elmers. Hopefully, this list will grow, and in time, maybe we'll get more who are willing to add a particular area of expertise.

KF4KSE David Moon (770) 279-9924

mobile radio installation

KG4IUM Andrea Hartlage (770) 963-2715 making QSL cards

KG4FXG, Bill Carter, (770) 339-4531 Mobile CW

WA4DYD, Stan Edwards (770) 923-8770 Emergency Communications

GENERAL INFORMATION:

WE5O Ron Langston (770) 569-8354 N1TWX Win Jackson (404) 869-1347

W4WKP Johnnie Fearon (770) 207-0020

WB2YAD Duane Reynolds

WB9JSW, Carl Plotz

K4MJK Mike Kovak

K4CB Carter Bennett (770) 923-5446

W4ADE Ade Wirth (770) 614-3743

K4HBI Mike Swiderski (770) 449-0369

W8KJM, Barney Barnes (APRS)

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Norman Schklar, WA4ZXV

Scholarship Chairman Carter Wood, AG4LK

Technical Advisor

Mike Swiderski, K4HBI



Gwinnett Amateur Radio Society PO Box 88 Lilburn, GA 30048

To receive the **Garzette** via e mail contact **David Branch,** KG4ZKN, kg4zkn@arrl.net

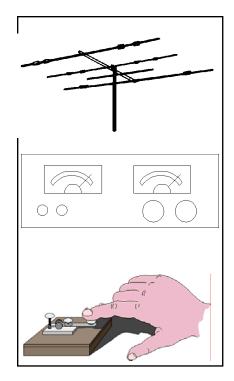




GARS Christmas Party December 3, 2004

The dates been set and we'll be able to announce the location soon.

So, get it on your calendar and plan to attend.



Tech Fest

January 22, 2005

Ray Back is spearheading this years Tech Fest so contact Ray with your ideas and presentations.

